

**What are your ideas for protecting democracies from disinformation (fake news, AI, attempts to influence...)?**

Consultation report- July 2024



# 1st part

## Consultation overview



# Why this consultation?

Over the past few years, our open democratic societies have witnessed an increase in attacks aimed at dividing opinions, reducing our sense of community and exacerbating feelings of mistrust. These attacks use **disinformation as one of the main weapons against political pluralism and freedom of speech**. 2024 is a major election year and the number of such attacks is on the rise.

It is for this reason that this consultation on the fight against disinformation was launched. It forms part of a project managed by the Technology and Global Affairs Innovation Hub (PSIA) at **SciencesPo** University and is run in collaboration with the independent European organisation **Make.org**, with the support of **NATO** and **Microsoft**. It aims to raise awareness and increase the sense of accountability of young Europeans, who are particularly affected by this major issue.

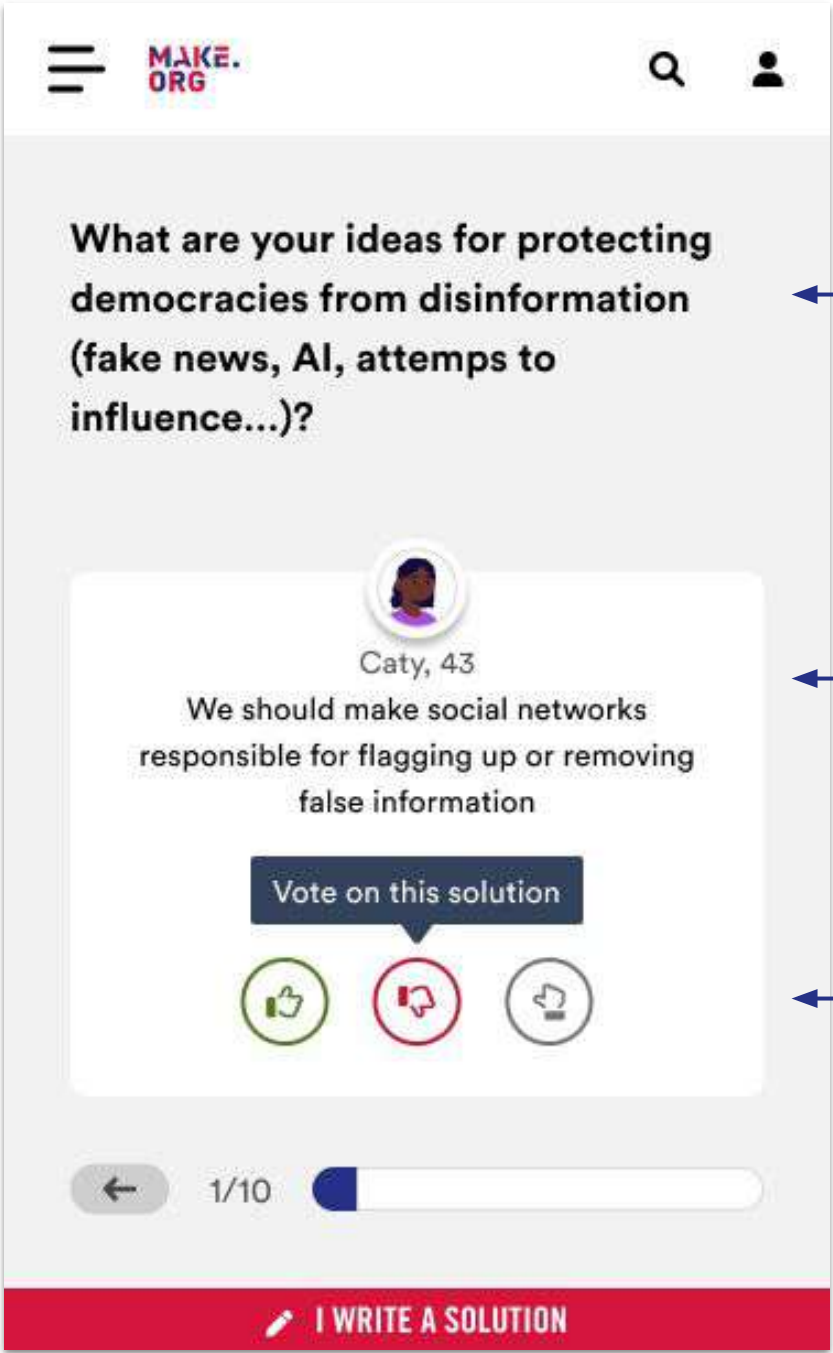
The consultation specifically targeted **young people under 35** in **France, Romania** and **Moldova**. It has a **broader international scope** with the inclusion of young students from SciencePo's Paris School of International Affairs, as well as proposals submitted by young people to the "Forum Gegen Fakes" consultation carried out in Germany by the **Bertelsmann Foundation** on the same subject.

This report presents an analysis of the results of the consultation.





# Reminder: what is a consultation on Make.org?



A unique **open question** to facilitate participation and limit biases

Participants can make **short proposals**, starting with “we should” (in Romanian and French)  
Proposals are translated automatically from one language to the other so everyone can read them

Participants can **vote** on other participants’ proposals (agree/disagree/neutral + overqualifications like “I love it”, “unrealistic”, “I don’t understand”....)

From 15.05.2024 to 20.06.2024

# Key figures from the consultation

*What are your ideas for protecting democracies from disinformation (fake news, AI, attempts to influence...)?*



**7,865**  
participants



**428**  
proposals  
submitted



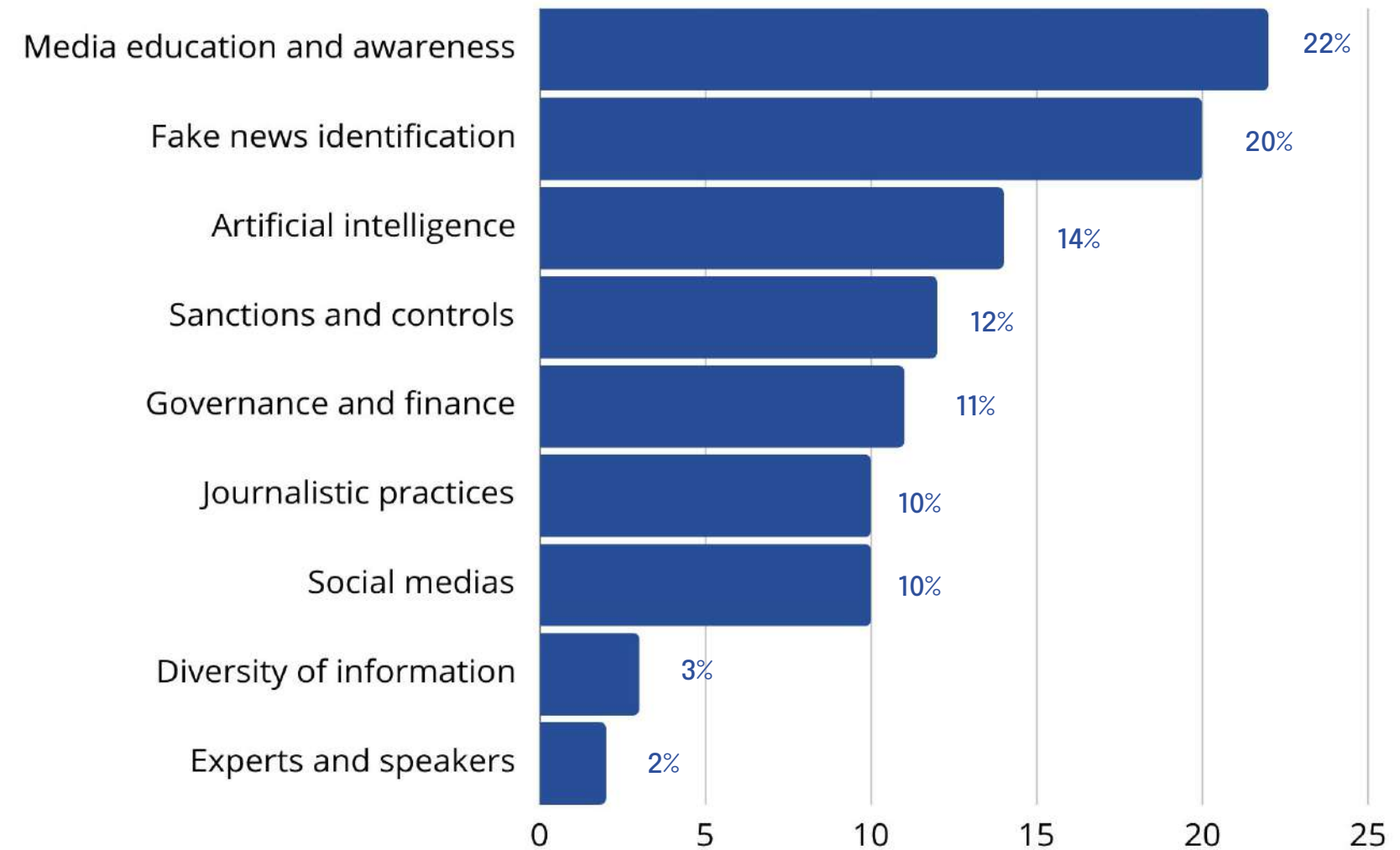
**71,554**  
votes

# Main themes of the consultation

## What citizens are talking about

% of 373 validated proposals\*

*\*The sum of the percentages is greater than 100% because some proposals fall under more than one theme.*



**This graph does not take citizens' votes into account, only the number of proposals.**

# 2nd part

## Popular ideas and controversial ideas



# Methodology

428 PROPOSALS SUBMITTED TO THE CONSULTATION

373 VALIDATED PROPOSALS

Consensus zone

Controversy zone



More than 60% of votes in favour

Fewer than 60% of votes in favour  
More than 15% of votes against

The proposals in the controversy zone are filtered based on the percentages of votes for and against. This allows us to select those that are most significantly controversial by decreasing the statistical thresholds (fewer than 55% of votes *in favour*).

Qualitative analysis  
by grouping together  
proposals the convey  
similar ideas

7 Popular  
ideas

4 Controversial  
ideas



# 7 popular ideas and 4 controversial ideas under 4 themes

## Educating and raising awareness

- Raising awareness of fake news and how to detect it and teaching techniques for verifying information
- ⚡ Promoting a more inclusive vision of the integration of AI in society
- ⚡ Limiting screen time

## Regulations and anonymity

- Increased regulation of social media sites
- Promoting a hardline approach in the fight against disinformation
- ⚡ Putting an end to anonymity online

## Governance and financing

- Ensuring the editorial independence of the media
- Establishing ethical norms and international governance for the development of AI
- ⚡ Reinforcing the role of the state in regulating social media and online information

## Certification and verification

- Further certifying and verifying content
- Progressing towards systematic fact-checking

**01.**

# **Educating and raising awareness**



Popular idea

# Raising awareness of fake news and how to detect it and teaching techniques for verifying information

54 proposals

What the majority of citizens agree on

Encouraging information literacy from an early age at school by integrating modules to familiarise children with basic concepts relating to information and the media.

Strengthening students' analytical skills and understanding of political issues.

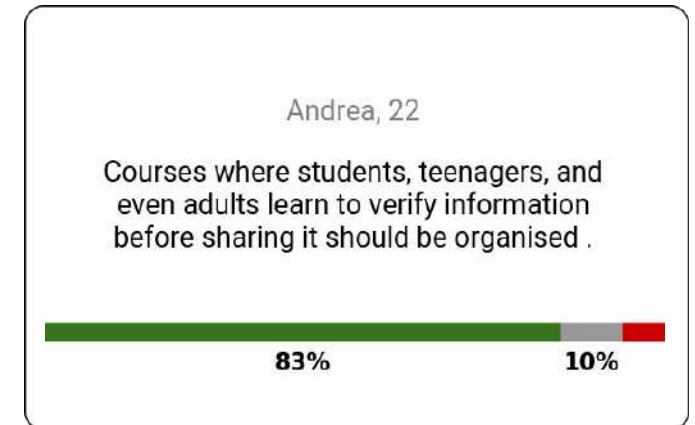
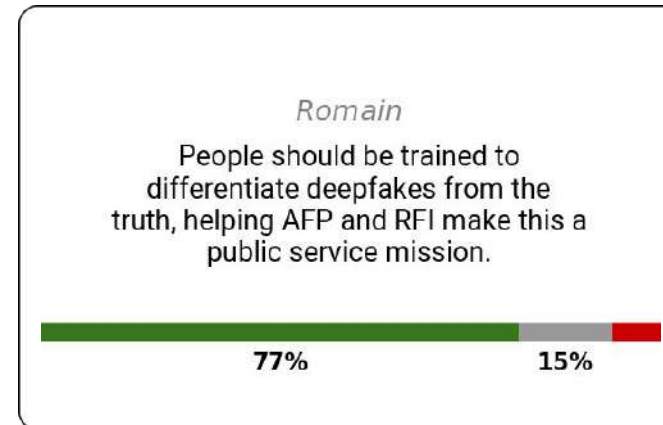
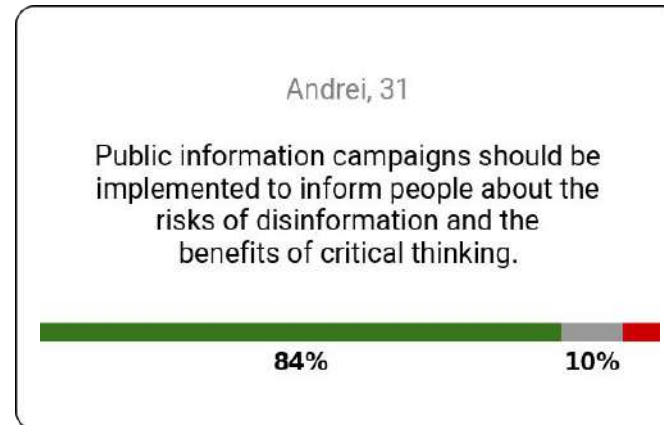
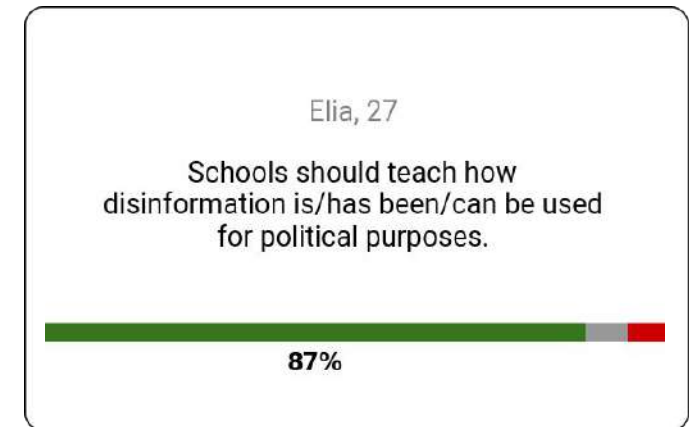
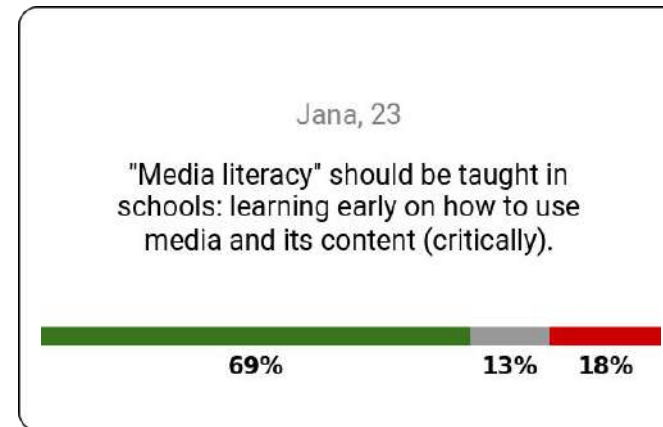
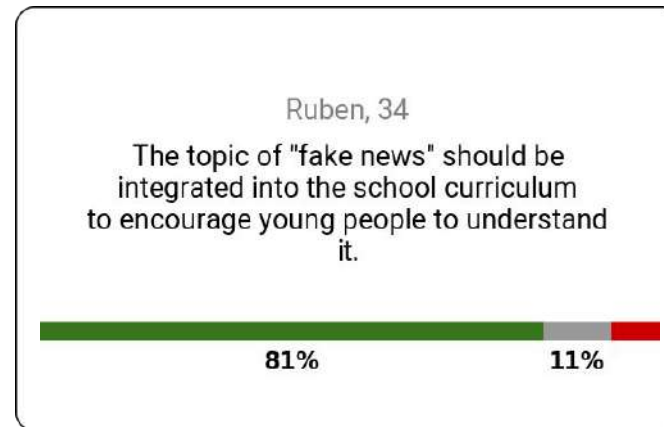
Covering new technologies, especially artificial intelligence and deepfakes, in the curriculum.

Outside of school settings, providing training to adults - and even elderly people - to protect society from disinformation.

Encouraging citizens to always verify their sources of information.

Launching information campaigns to raise public awareness about the dangers of disinformation.

♥ Popular proposal examples:



**Controversial topic**

# Promoting a more inclusive vision of the integration of AI in society

6 proposals

**What citizens are divided on**

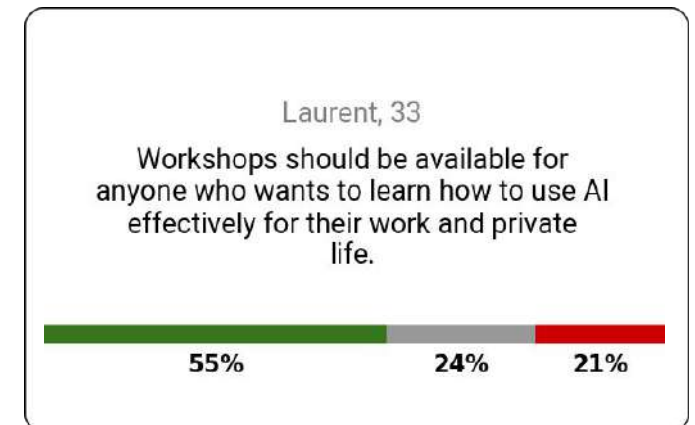
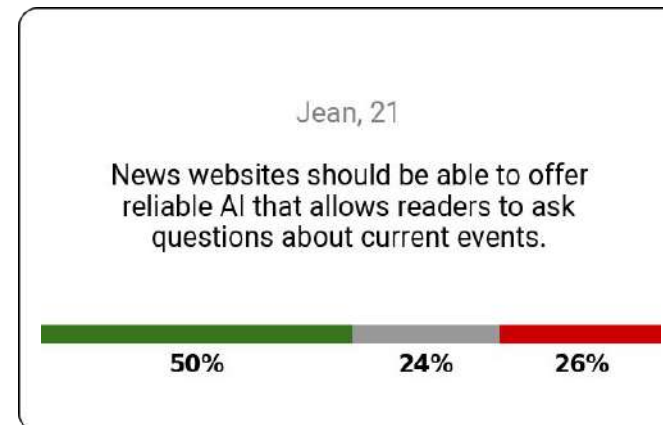
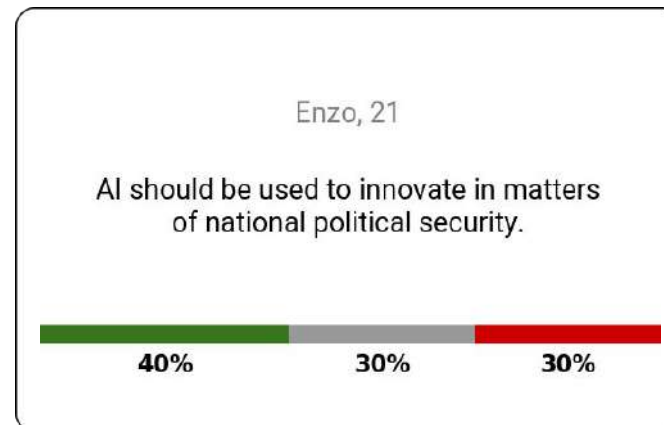
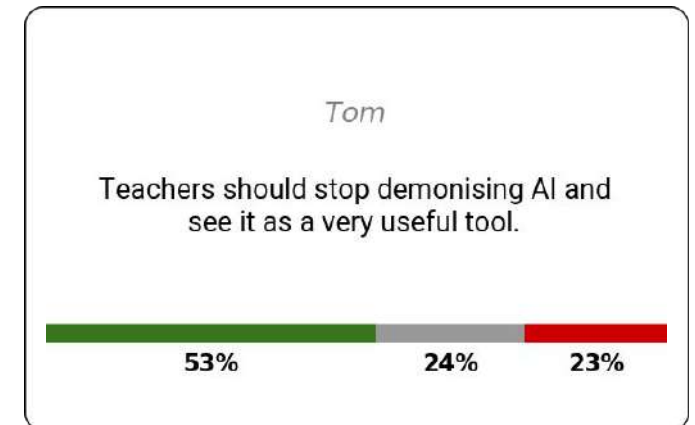
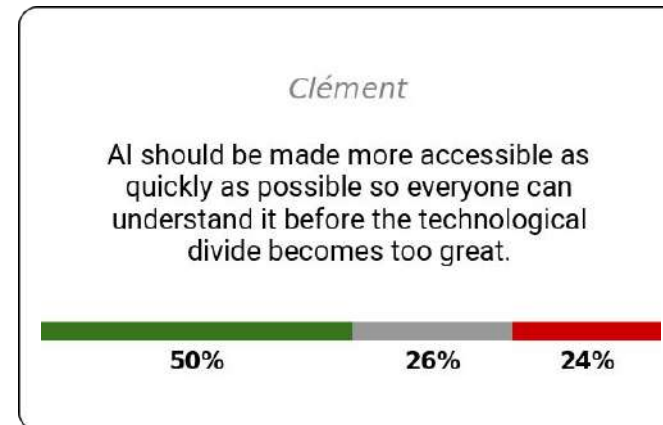
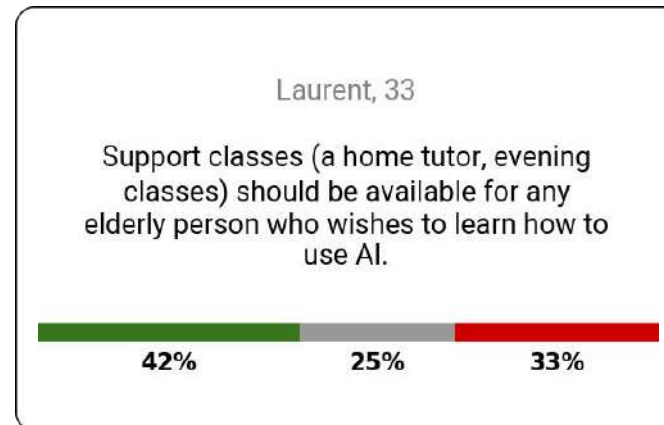
**Generalising the use of artificial intelligence tools** and providing **wider access to all segments of the population** to allow everyone to familiarise themselves with this technology and prevent the deepening of the digital divide.

**Running classes/workshops for everyone**, even elderly people, who wants to learn how to use AI.

Changing attitudes towards AI, **particularly in education settings**, and considering it as a useful tool.

Some isolated proposals consider AI as potentially becoming an essential tool for citizens.

**⚡ Controversial proposal examples:**



Controversial topic

# Limiting screen time

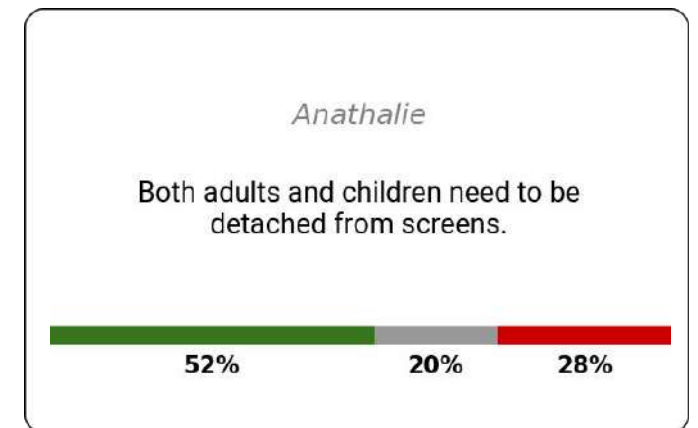
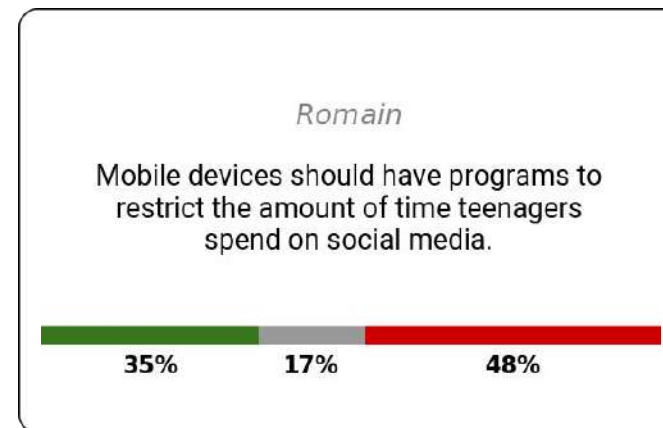
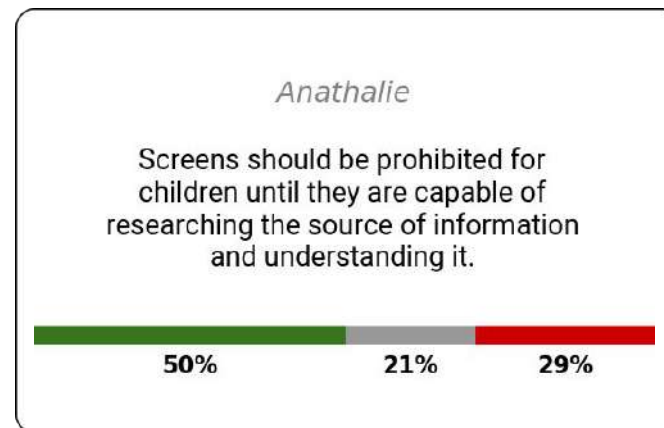
3 proposals

## What citizens are divided on

**Limiting the amount of time** teenagers and adults spend daily on social media.

**Denying children access to screens** until they are able to verify and understand sources of information.

⚡ Controversial proposal examples:





02.

# Governance and financing



Popular idea

# Ensuring the editorial independence of the media

23 proposals

## What the majority of citizens agree on

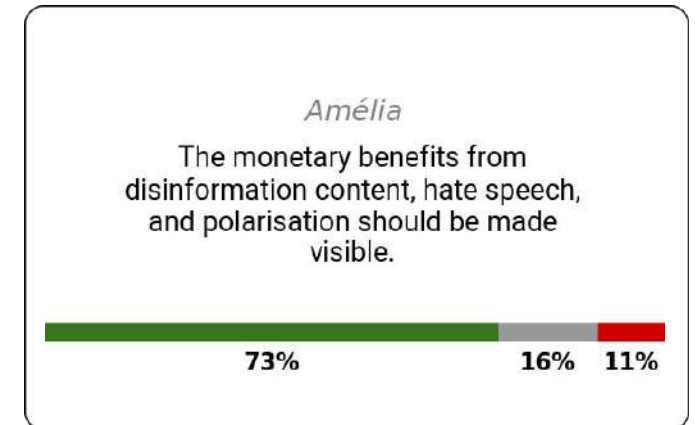
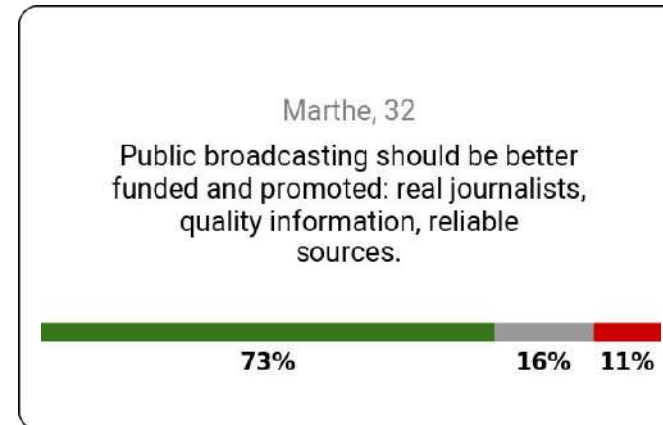
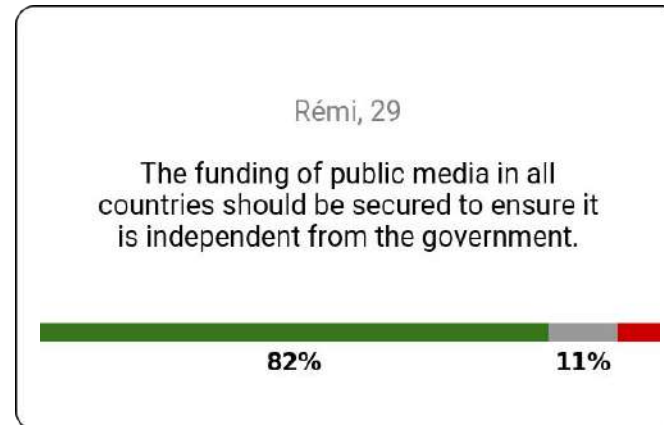
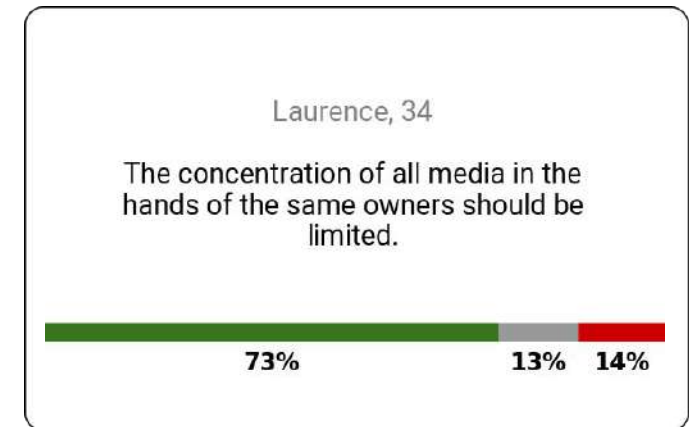
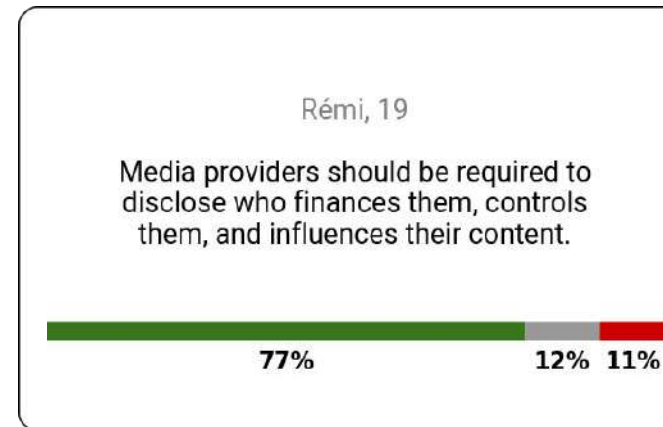
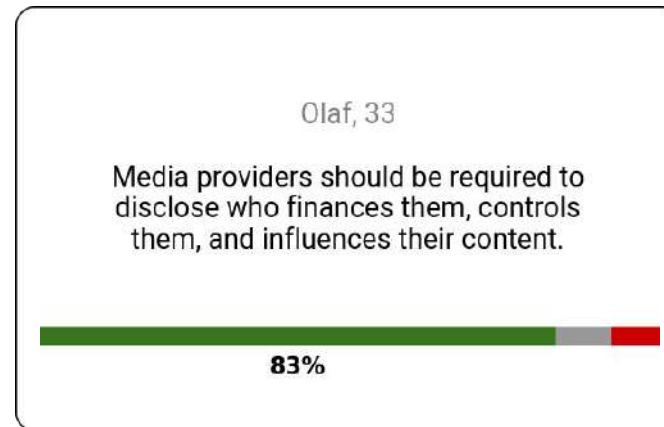
Reinforcing **transparency and diversity** in the media sector.

Guaranteeing **transparency and traceability** when it comes to **media financing and editorial control**.

Protecting the media from outside influence and ensuring that the media landscape remains diverse.

Fighting against the concentration of media ownership and reinforcing public broadcasting.

### ♥ Popular proposal examples:



Popular idea

# Establishing ethical norms and international governance for the development of AI

19 proposals

What the majority of citizens agree on

**Adopting a collaborative approach on a global scale** (including governments, NGOs and the private sector) to face the challenges posed by AI and disinformation.

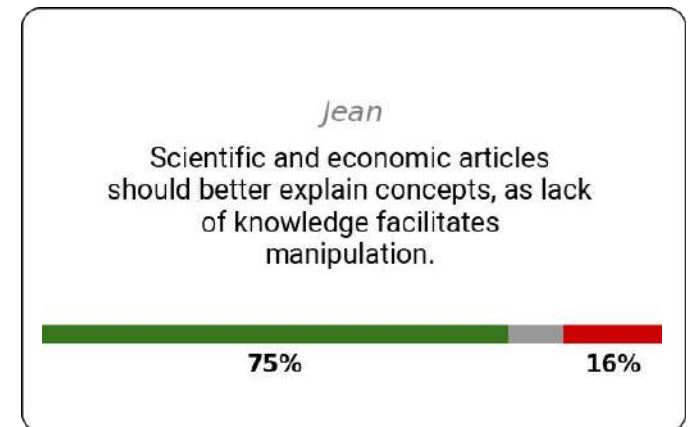
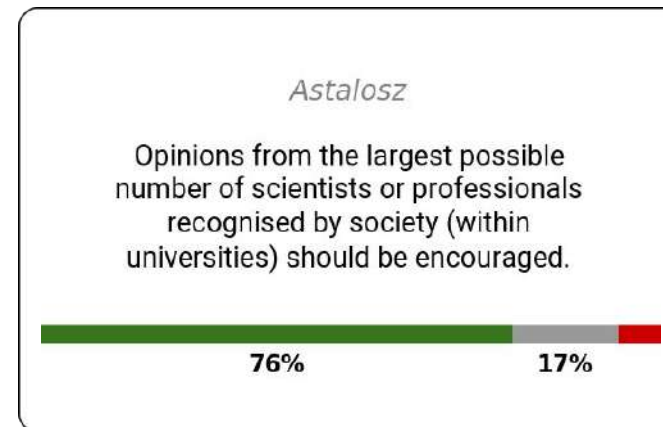
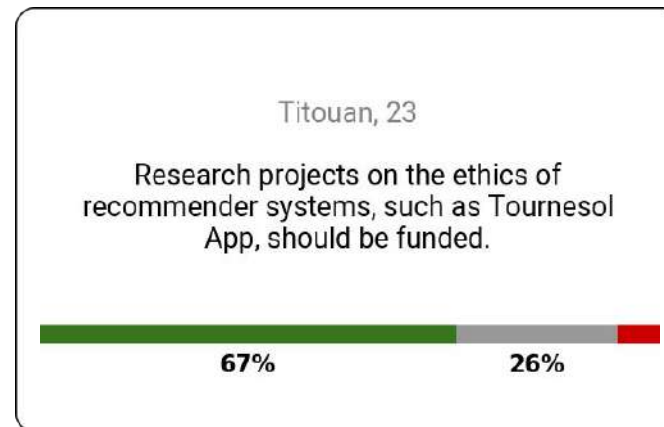
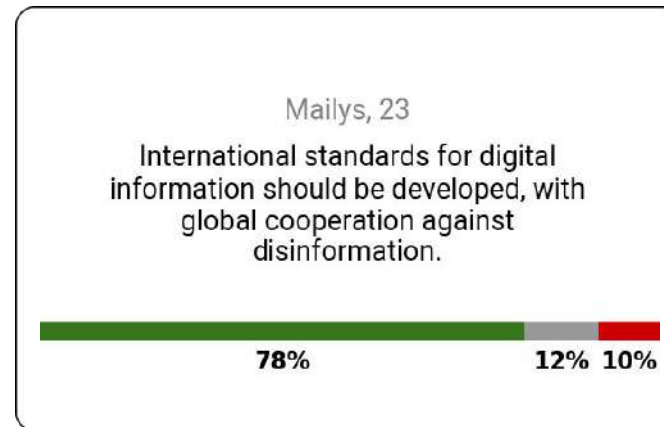
Promoting the **ethical development** of AI and setting **limits with shared international guidelines**.

**Involving reputable scientists and professionals** in public consultations regarding the fight against disinformation to a greater degree.

**Increasing financing for research**, particularly with regard to the ethics of recommender systems and cybersecurity.

**Creating monitoring centres and task forces** so that international experts and civil society organisations can agree on joint recommendations.

♥ Popular proposal examples:



Controversial topic

# Reinforcing the role of the state in regulating social media and online information

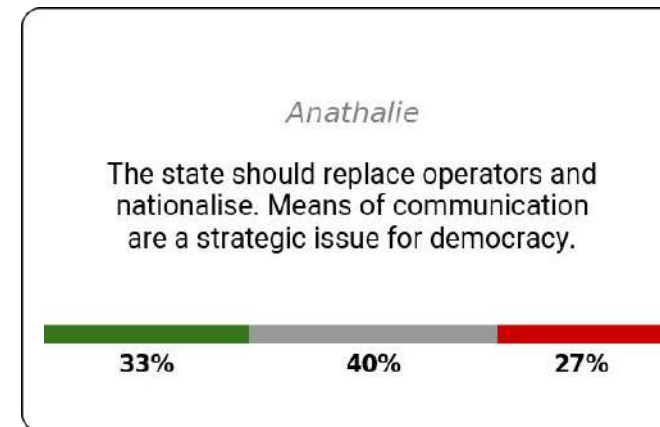
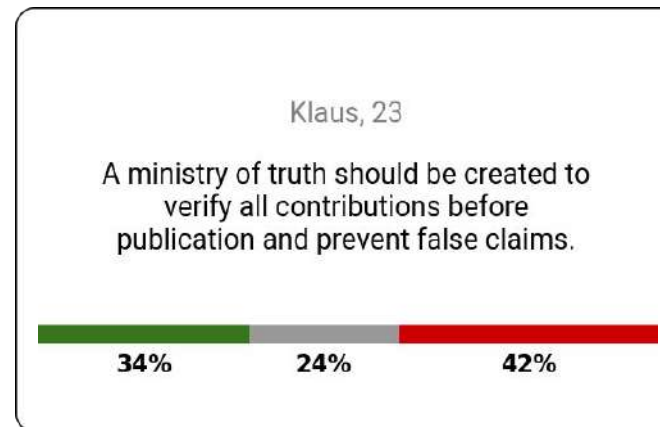
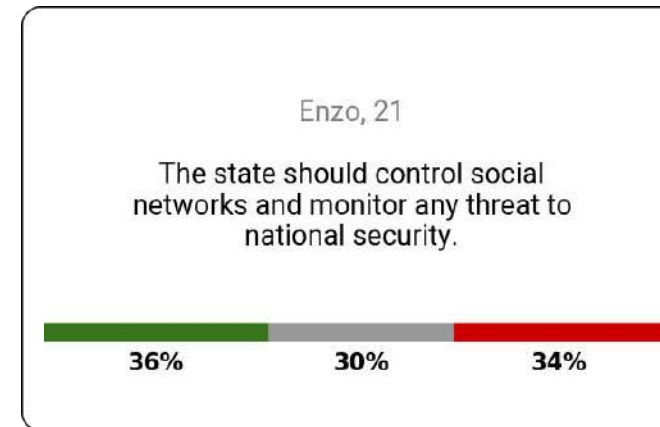
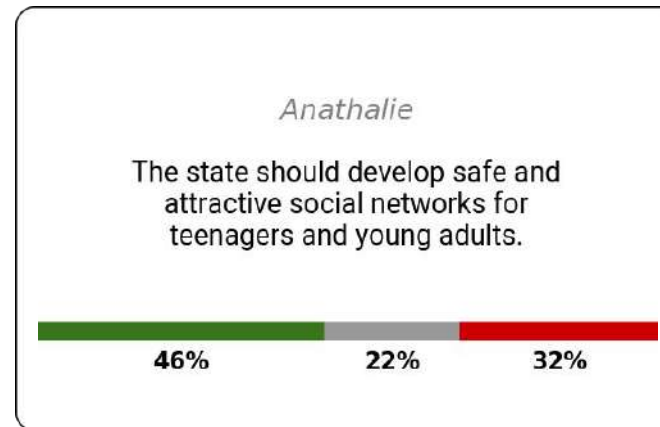
4 proposals

## What citizens are divided on

Increasing state control over social media and communication tools, even nationalising them.

Creating a state-run entity responsible for **verifying posts before they are published.**

⚡ Controversial proposal examples:



03.

# Regulations and anonymity





**Popular idea**

# Increased regulation of social media sites

20 proposals

**What the majority of citizens agree on**

Holding social media sites more **accountable** for the content published on them.

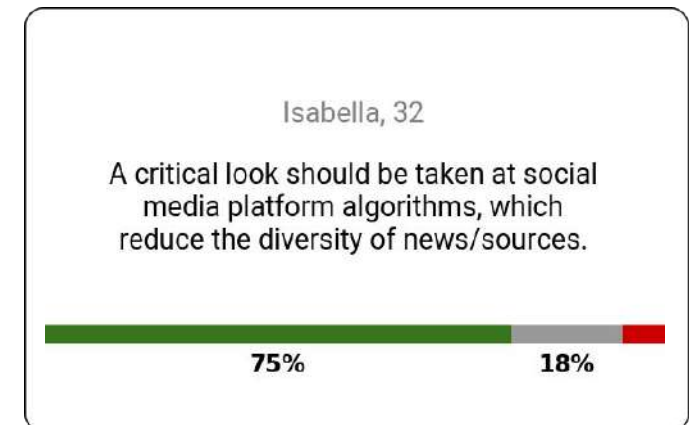
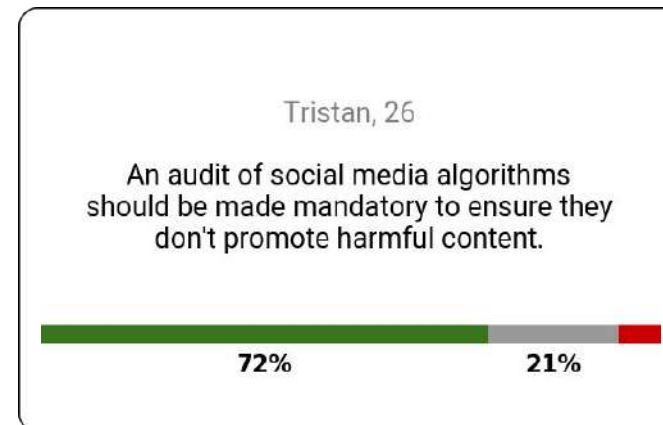
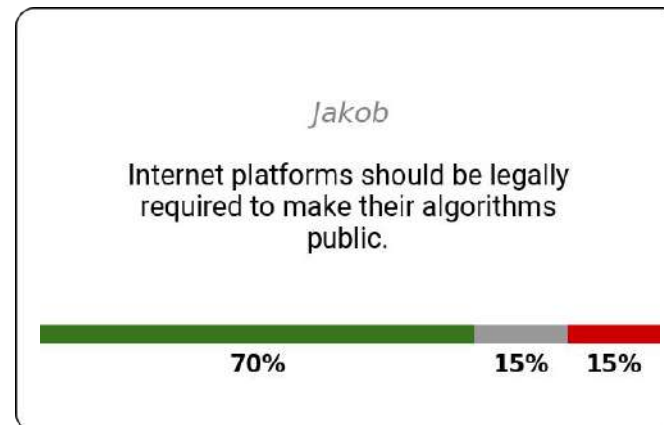
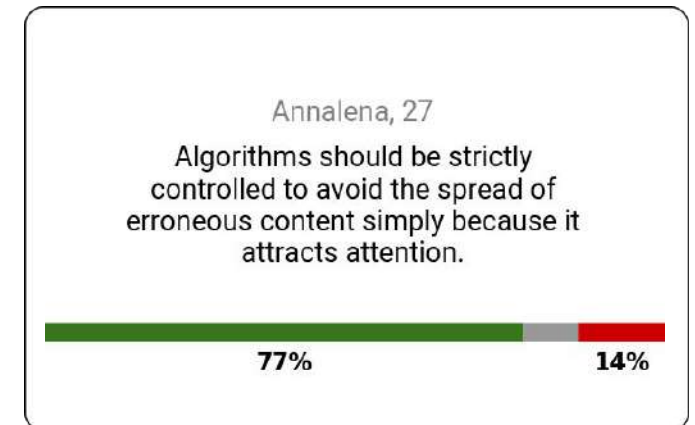
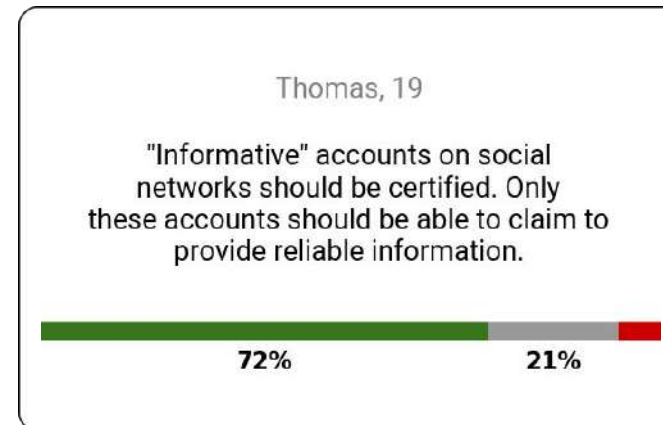
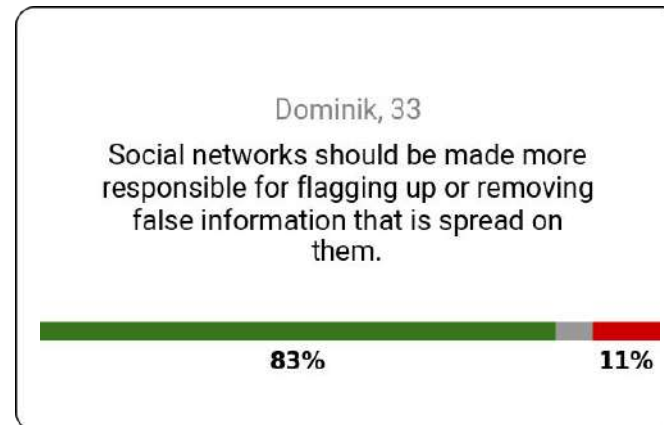
**Systematically removing problematic or dangerous content from social media** and **certifying official accounts**.

**Making algorithms more transparent and accessible to the general public**, with detailed explanations on how they operate or on the carrying out of independent audits.

Imposing rules for algorithms to prevent the promotion of fake news and hateful content.

Actively fighting against **bots and trolls**.

♥ Popular proposal examples:



Popular idea

# Promoting a hardline approach in the fight against disinformation

19 proposals

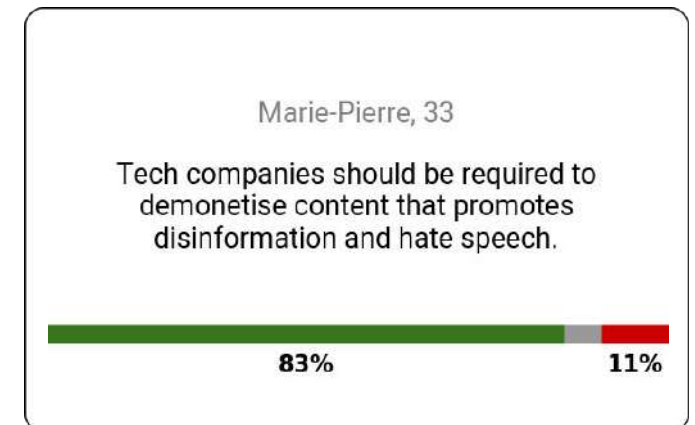
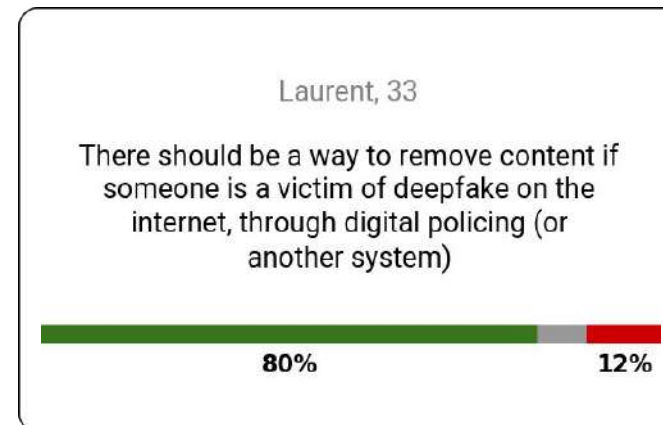
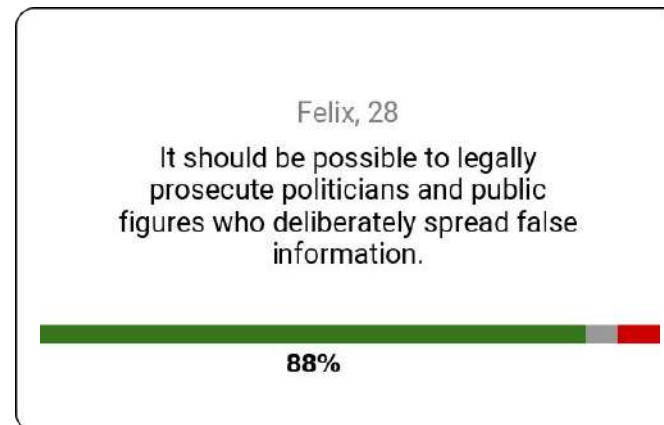
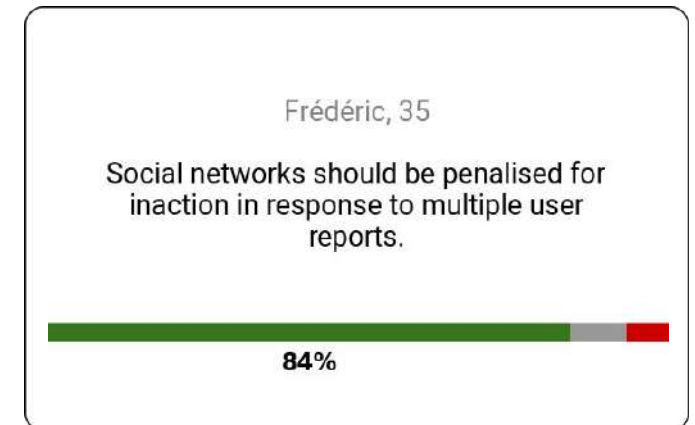
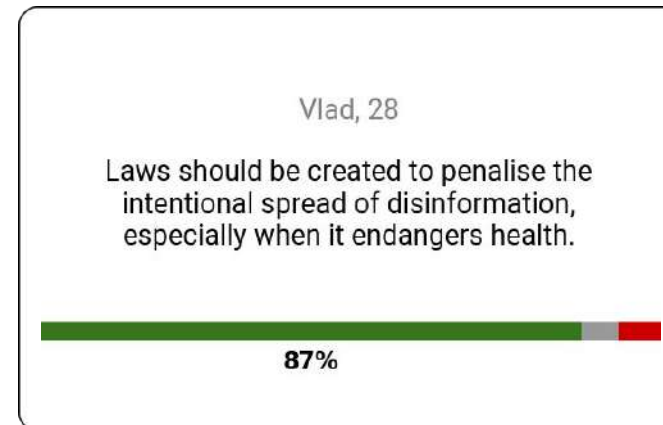
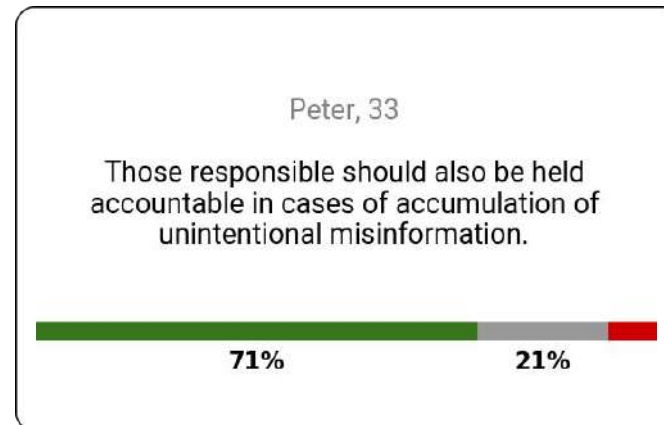
What the majority of citizens agree on

Insisting on **sanctions - from fines to legal action** - to deter people from spreading disinformation.

**Greater accountability**, encompassing a wide range of players, including traditional media, social networks, public figures, elected representatives and experts.

**Creating an authority** that systematically reports and deletes problematic content.

♥ Popular proposal examples:



**Controversial topic**

# Putting an end to anonymity online

6 proposals

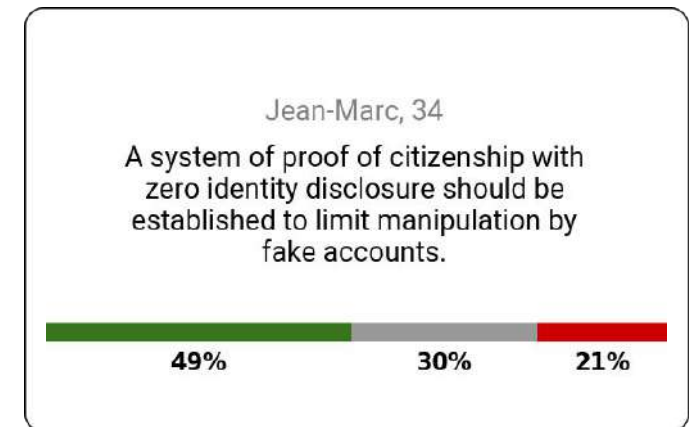
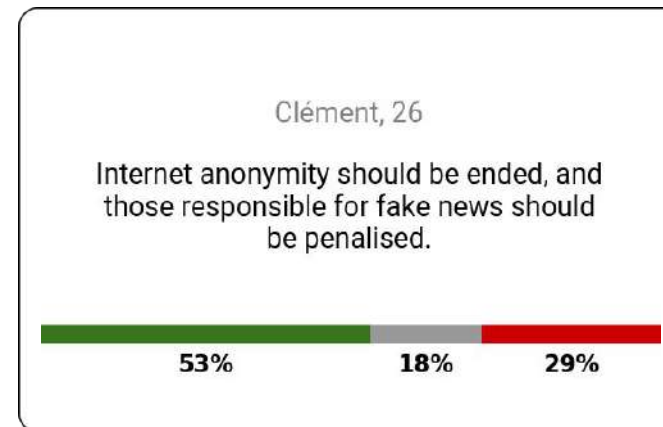
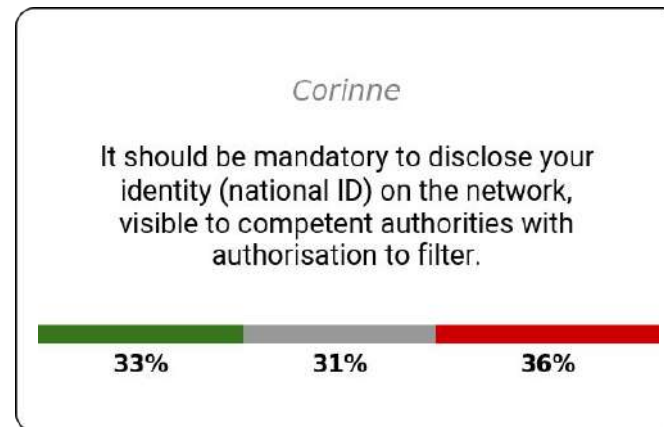
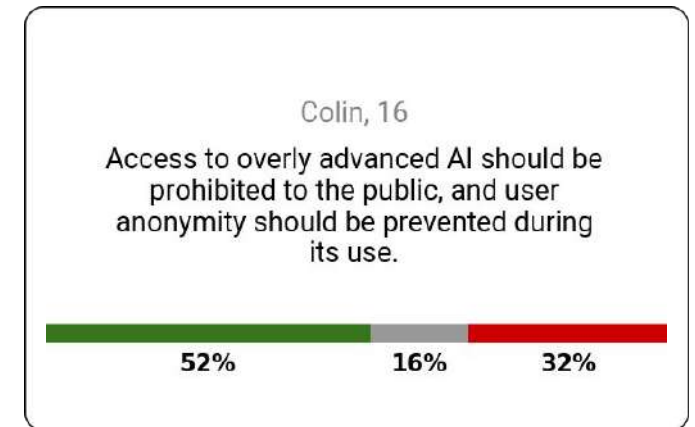
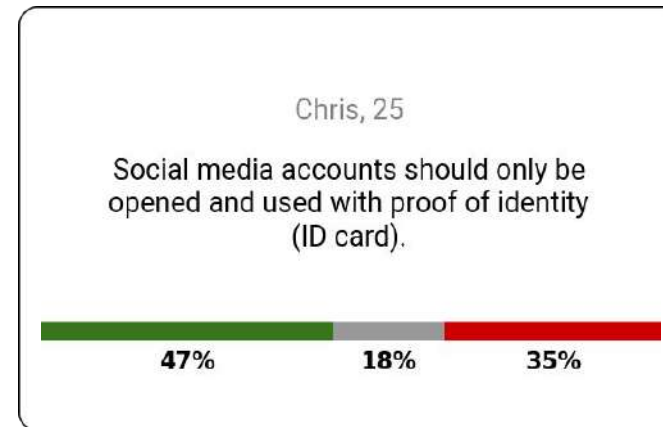
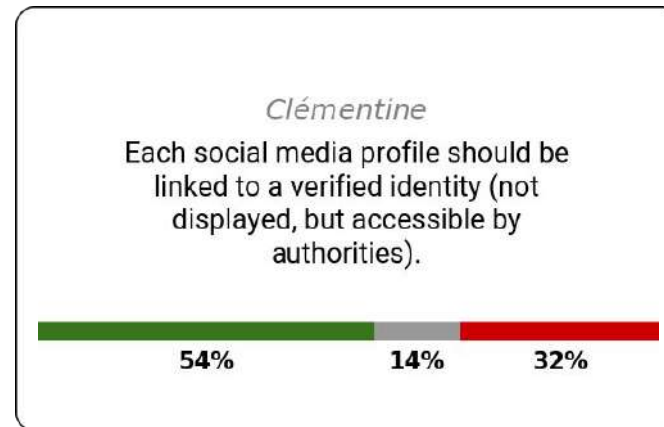
**What citizens are divided on**

**Making information in the digital space traceable** and connecting **profiles to identities**.

Verifying the identity of all users on online platforms and even **requesting proof of identity** before allowing users to post.

**Permitting the authorities to access this information.**

⚡ Controversial proposal examples:



04.

# Certification & verification



Popular idea

# Further certifying and verifying content

38 proposals

What the majority of citizens agree on

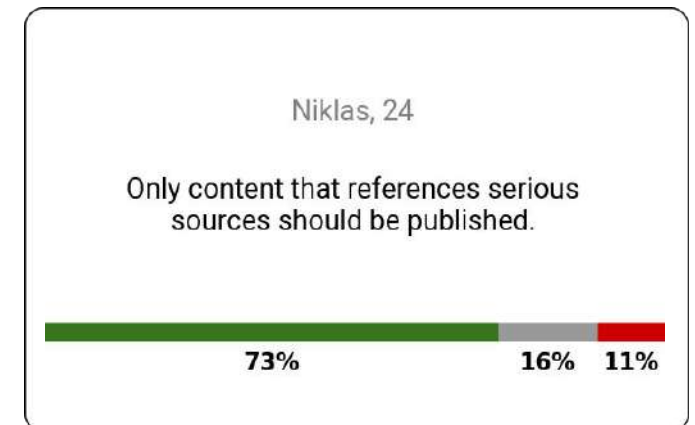
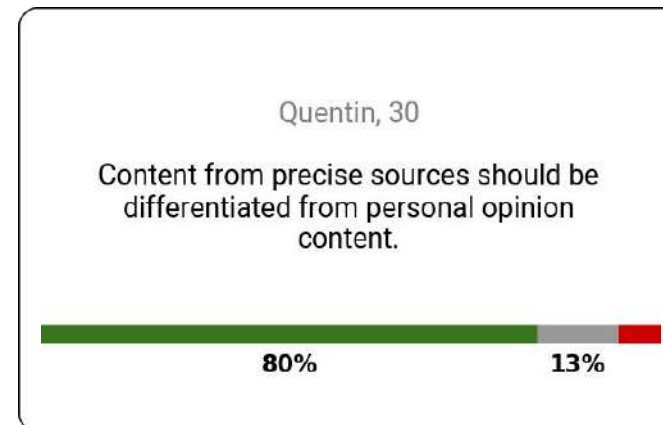
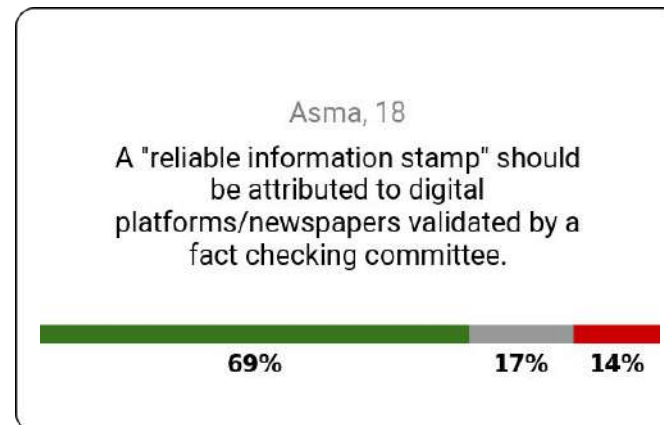
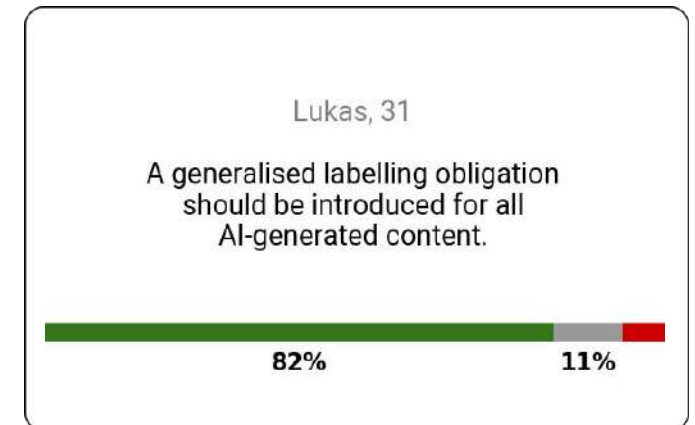
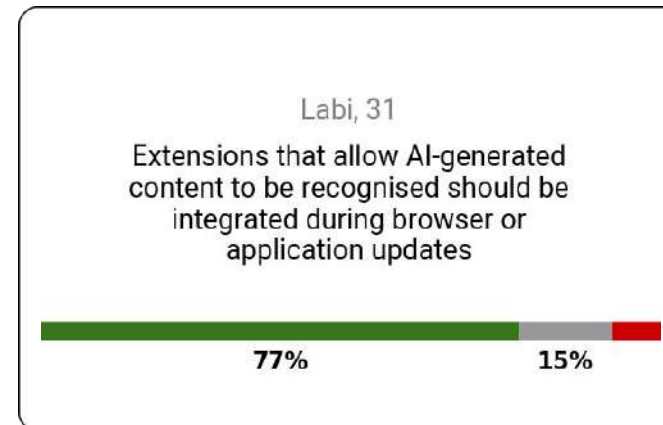
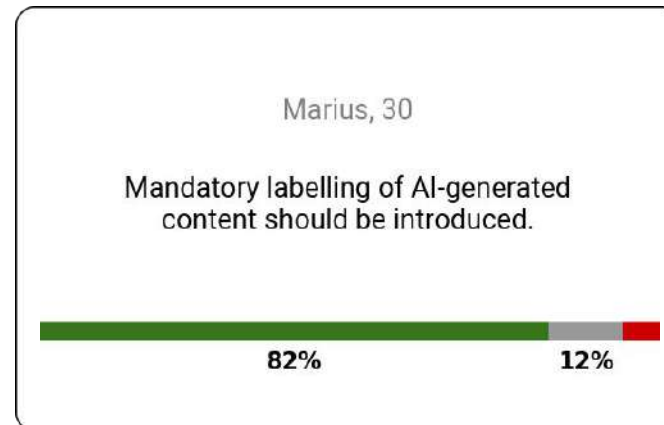
**Creating trust or reliability labels** which allow the veracity of sources of information to be quickly assessed.

Creating a **labelling system** that clearly separates **factual content from opinions**, allowing people to better interpret information.

**Identifying AI-generated content** and separating it from content published by humans.

Requiring the media to systematically reference their sources for any facts, figures or laws cited in press articles.

♥ Popular proposal examples:





Popular idea

# Progressing towards systematic fact-checking

32 proposals

What the majority of citizens agree on

Fighting disinformation by reinforcing fact-checking to preserve the integrity of information

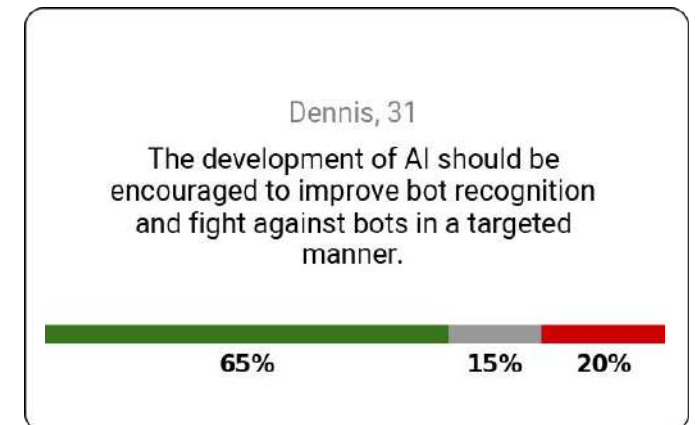
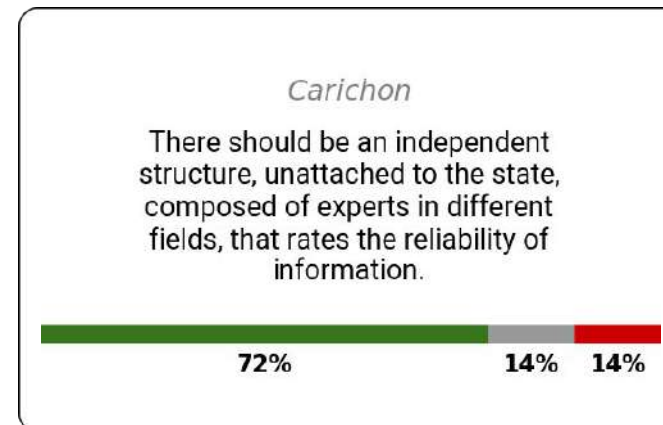
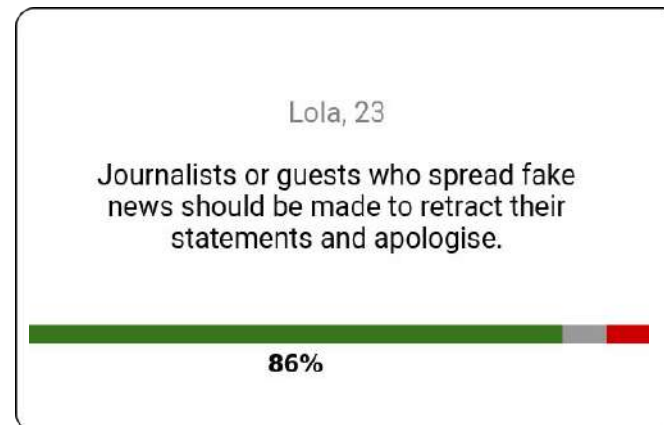
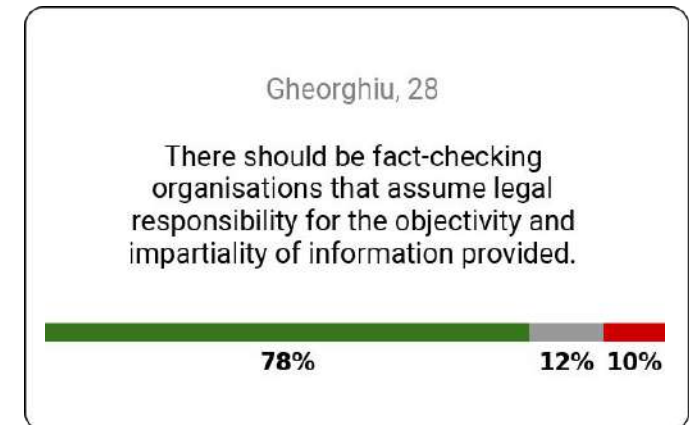
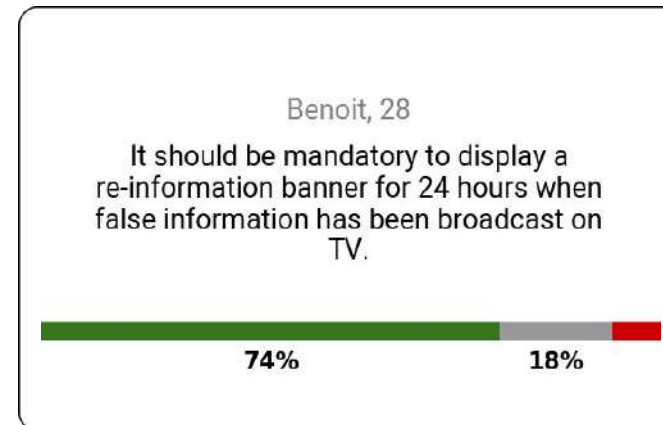
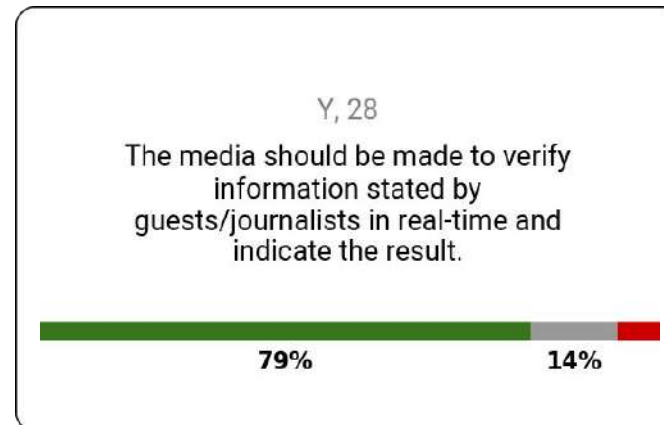
**Limiting untrue information from reaching the general public by checking facts in real time**, during TV broadcasts for instance.

**Holding information providers accountable** and implementing **quick and transparent correction procedures**. This will ensure that errors are corrected and limit their impact on public opinion.

**Creating independent fact-checking bodies**, free from state or commercial influence.

**Using AI to help fact-checkers by detecting fake news**, fake accounts and bots.

♥ Popular proposal examples:



# Focus on AI



**MAKE.**  
**ORG**